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As to a plea for English, I think Dr. BRIGHT was referring to a word I said this morning. I wish to disclaim any intention of attacking English. I only wished to say that my colleagues, the professors of English, should take charge of that branch, and not the professors of Modern Languages. I know the great ability of men like Dr. BRIGHT, and I can count upon them to counteract any harm done to the English of my pupils by my desire to teach French by speaking that language in my class.

Prof. R. E. BLACKWELL. I am sure that Mr. SMITH would not try by his method to teach fifty-five pupils, the number that a gentleman from a New England University tells me he has in one class. A man must adapt himself to circumstances, should use methods that he finds produce the most satisfactory results. I should not ask Prof. FORTIER to teach as most of us do. His surroundings are peculiarly favorable, and I know he teaches in a way to make the most of them. His method would not suit us however. If we understood the conditions under which each had to teach, we should less often disagree about methods.

Prof. C. SPRAGUE SMITH. I disagree with Dr. BRIGHT very distinctly and entirely with regard to his position in connection with English. In my opinion the more thoroughly and entirely we master foreign languages, and I would almost say the more of them we master, so as to secure more points of view, the greater our gain when we come back to English. By forgetting, for the time being, English a man can master more readily a foreign idiom.

There has been no more beautiful and exact expression in English, in modern critical English, than JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL has given us. He was a master of many languages. The question of the mastery of a language is, however, a relative question. GEORGE MARSH, our minister to Italy, once asked an American, who had lived six months in Rome, whether he could read Italian without a dictionary.

The question was answered in the negative. It was then suggested that CHARLES SUMNER after a brief stay in Italy, had declared that he could read anything in Italian without a dictionary. Mr. MARSH said:

"I have devoted my whole life to the study of languages and I have not yet reached the point where I can read English without a dictionary."

If Dr. BRIGHT will excuse the comparison, to confine one's self to English, in order not to lose one's mastery of it, is like shutting one's self up as a hermit in order to lead a more perfect life.

The President. The Chair is sorry to announce that on account of the lack of time discussion on this point will have to be suspended. The next paper on the program is by Prof. ALCÉE FORTIER (Tulane University), on "The Isleños of Louisiana and their Dialect."

Prof. ELLIOTT will open the discussion.

Prof. ELLIOTT. It has been my pleasure to be able, as it has been my good fortune on certain occasions, to make a few remarks in connection with Prof. FORTIER's paper before this Association. For the reason that I knew nothing about the Isleños, I suggested that he should pay them a visit and tell us something about them.

We take up the history of this colony with which Prof. FORTIER started and we find the subject is an extremely interesting one. In the first place, if we start with the present generation we have the English; going back one step, we have the Creole French. Another *étape* and we have the Spanish. Here the real problem in connection with this most interesting people begins. We wish to determine to what part of Spain the dialect belongs, hence go back from Louisiana to the Canary Islands and the time when the Isleños were imported there (1778), but when we get back to the Canary Islands we have a mixture of the French language as spoken by the Normans, who conquered the territory and presented it to the King of Castile. Hence the combination here of French and Spanish.

But when we get thus far in our investigation we have not cleared up the field in any sense of the word. Long before the Spanish and long before the French came there, the old Carthaginians occupied the islands for hundreds of years. The Spaniards came in there, and I have no doubt that when these forms that we have in Louisiana are carried back to their source, we shall find considerable influence of the old Punic speech of the early inhabitants of the Canaries. It would be perfectly natural that the Punic influence should prevail to a considerable extent throughout the whole of the islands.

From these points, then, we easily see what an immense problem the language of the handful of people in Louisiana would lead up to. It is an interesting one from a historical point of view, and from the point of view of language mixture it becomes one of very great difficulty.

The few words and specimens of the language as quoted by Prof. FORTIER do not enable me to make a suggestion with reference to what part of Spain these Isleños came.

I hope at some time Prof. FORTIER will have the opportunity to continue his investigations in this field, and give us all the material that can be collected from Isleños, so that we may be able to determine approximately where they belong.

You see from these few points on which I have touched how many problems come up in connection with this subject, and how extremely difficult and complicated these problems become as we go back. On the field to-day it seems to me it would be comparatively easy to work out the mixture with English, but when we get back on the line a little and try to test the background of the whole question it becomes a very complicated one.

The President. The next paper on the program is "Jean de Mairet. A Critical Study in the History of French Literature," by Mr. JULIUS BLUME (John Hopkins University).